

**House File 393 - Reprinted**

HOUSE FILE 393  
BY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN  
RESOURCES

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 25)

(As Amended and Passed by the House March 9, 2011)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act allowing a physician assistant or an advanced registered  
2 nurse practitioner to sign a death certificate.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 142C.8, subsection 10, Code 2011, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 10. The physician, physician assistant, or advanced  
4 registered nurse practitioner who attends the decedent at death  
5 and the physician, physician assistant, or advanced registered  
6 nurse practitioner who determines the time of death shall not  
7 participate in the procedures for removing or transplanting a  
8 part from the decedent.

9 Sec. 2. Section 144.26, subsection 1, Code 2011, is amended  
10 to read as follows:

11 1. a. A death certificate for each death which occurs  
12 in this state shall be filed as directed by the state  
13 registrar within three days after the death and prior to final  
14 disposition, and shall be registered by the county registrar  
15 if it has been completed and filed in accordance with this  
16 chapter. A death certificate shall include the social security  
17 number, if provided, of the deceased person. All information  
18 including the certifying physician's, physician assistant's,  
19 or advanced registered nurse practitioner's name shall be  
20 typewritten.

21 b. A physician assistant or an advanced registered nurse  
22 practitioner authorized to sign a death certificate shall be  
23 licensed in this state and shall have been in charge of the  
24 deceased patient's care.

25 Sec. 3. Section 144.28, subsection 1, paragraphs b and e,  
26 Code 2011, are amended to read as follows:

27 b. Unless there is a nonnatural cause of death, the medical  
28 certification shall be completed and signed by the physician,  
29 physician assistant, or advanced registered nurse practitioner  
30 in charge of the patient's care for the illness or condition  
31 which resulted in death within seventy-two hours after  
32 receipt of the death certificate from the funeral director or  
33 individual who initially assumes custody of the body.

34 e. If upon inquiry into a death, the county or state medical  
35 examiner determines that a preexisting natural disease or

1 condition was the likely cause of death and that the death does  
2 not affect the public interest as described in section 331.802,  
3 subsection 3, the medical examiner may elect to defer to the  
4 physician, physician assistant, or advanced registered nurse  
5 practitioner in charge of the patient's preexisting condition  
6 the certification of the cause of death.